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Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 00528 140734Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 /091 W
----------006671 150423Z /65
R 140530Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3188
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU
CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0528

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI PASS STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PP, CH, UR
SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF PRC AND SOVIET EMBASSIES POSTPONED

REF: PORT MORESBY 455

1. SUMMARY: FONMIN OLEWALE ANNOUNCED APRIL 13 THAT THE DECISION TO INVITE PRC AND USSR TO ESTABLISH MISSIONS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA HAD BEEN DEFERRED BY THE CABINET. ALTHOUGH OLEWALE WAS ABLE TO SAVE SOME FACE BY ANNOUNCING A DEFERMENT, FACT REMAINS HIS DECISION WAS REVERSED BY CABINET. END SUMMARY.

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2. FONMIN OLEWALE'S OFFICE ISSUED FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE APRIL 13:
"THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE, MR. N.E. OLEWALE, ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD DECIDED TO DEFER THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED DECISION TO INVITE THE SOVIET AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS TO ESTABLISH EMBASSIES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

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MR. OLEWALE WENT ON TO SAY THAT AMONG THE SPECIFIC REASONS WERE THAT MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT HAD NOT BEEN FULLY REALISHED TO ADEQUATELY CATER FOR A SUDDEN AND LARGE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF NEW RESIDENT FOREIGN MISSIONS AND SECONDLY, PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED IN MAKING AVAILABLE LAND SITES FOR OFFICE AS WELL AS RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR SUCH MISSIONS. THE MINISTER CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT AS OON AS THESE RAMIFICATIONS HAD BEEN CLOSELY SCRUTINISED, HE EXPECTED TO PRESENT THIS MATTER TO THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION."

3. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS HANDLED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO BLOCK CHINESE AND SOVIETS AND STILL PERMIT OLEWALE TO SAVE SOME FACE. AS PER REFTEL, OPPOSITION WAS STRONG, INDEED. DFAT STAFF INADEQUECIES AND LACK OF OFFICE SPACE AND HOUSING ARE LEGITIMATE POINTS. EEC REP, HERE TWO MONTHS, HAS FOUND NEITHER OFFICE SPACE NOR PERMANENT HOUSING. WE, TOO, UNABLE FIND HOUSING FOR JUNIOR OFFICER NOW AT POST TWO MONTHS. HOUSING SITUATION BAD AND GETTING WORSE WITH UNITS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND OTHERS STILL ONLY ON PAPER ALREADY LEASED. NEVERTHELESS, WITH FRENCH AND FGR MISSIONS OPENING HERE IN NEAR FUTURE, DECISION ON CHINESE AND SOVIETS OBVIOUSLY POLITICALLY MOTIVATED.

4. OLEWALE MAY, AS HE SAYS, GO BACK TO CABINET IN
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FUTURE. HOWEVER, UNLESS THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN ATTITUDES THROUGHOUT THE GPNG, THE POSTPONEMENT COULD BE A LONG ONE.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 14 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780455/aaaabuda.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ESTABLISHMENT OF PRC AND SOVIET EMBASSIES POSTPONED
TAGS: PDIP, PP, CH, UR
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